

ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN.

Colorado Lawlessness.—So far as I am able to judge, Arthur M. Evans is writing more truth about the war in Colorado than any correspondent who has written for any of the big Chicago newspapers. In what I have read of his correspondence he shows a disposition to be fair, and the Record-Herald is evidently not censoring his news stories.

His story in Thursday's Record-Herald shows that while laws were passed by the Colorado legislature to correct abuses in the mining district the coal companies violated the laws with impunity, because they controlled all the officers of the law—and hence the law itself. For law is only what officers of the law make it.

The situation is summed up in the following statement by Mr. Evans:

"Here is a melting-pot containing at least twenty-two nationalities to be transmuted into American citizens. They come here ignorant and unversed in the meaning of constitutional government and the meaning of citizenship, and the first thing they learn upon entering the mines is that the labor laws of the state are being openly violated. Not only that, but the violators are safe because they control the offices of local government. If the miner protests he is told 'down the canyon for you,' which is equivalent to telling him to leave the camp."

In Colorado, as nearly everywhere else in this alleged land of the free and home of the brave, the real criminals, the real violators of law, the really dangerous citizens so far as lawlessness goes, are the employers who have money enough to hire criminal lawyers or lawyer criminals to show them how to laugh at the law and still keep out of jail.

As Clarence Darrow has expressed it: "Most of the men in jails and penitentiaries are there because they

didn't have money enough to hire a good lawyer."

I have taken to reading the Record-Herald more and the Tribune less lately, because I find more of the truth in the Record-Herald concerning the news from the Colorado war; and it is a much more significant war than that fake war in Mexico. There is more human interest in it.

Murderous Militia.—The coroner's jury, after full investigation of the massacre of women and children at Ludlow, Colorado, found that the fire which destroyed the tent colony on the night of April 20, causing the death of 13 women and children, was started by militia or mine guards, or both.

It is well to bear in mind in this connection that there is little if any real difference between the state militia and the so-called mine guards, because officers were permitted to recruit the state militia in the coal fields, and proceeded to put uniforms on the gunmen, or mine guards, in the employ of the coal barons.

Other gunmen in Rockefeller's private army were sworn in as deputy sheriffs by a sheriff controlled by the coal operators, just as gunmen were sworn in as deputies by a sheriff controlled by the copper barons in the copper country.

In other words, the practice is nowadays for employers to make ex-convicts and thugs from the slums of the big cities officers of the law. The same thing was done right here in Chicago by the publishers' trust during the pressmen's lockout in 1912.

Ex-convicts acting as special policemen or deputy sheriffs committed murder in the streets of Chicago during that trouble, just as the gunmen of Colorado have committed murder there for the benefit of the coal barons.

This is the practice the people of this country will have to stop if they don't want civil war in all industrial